

**MINUTES OF THE ECONOMIC VITALITY ADVISORY BOARD**  
**September 20, 2016**  
**7:00 am – Aspen Room**  
**Community Center, 715 East Main Street**

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**CALL TO ORDER**

Vice-Chair Smith called the meeting to order at 7:08 AM.

**ROLL CALL**

Board Members: Lucas Smith, Matt Litvay, Gene McManamay, Marcus Trusty, Bryan Jordan.

Board Applicant: Dan Robertson

Town Trustee(s): Dave Volpe

Town Staff: Assistant to the Town Administrator Emily Katsimpalis

**AGENDA ADOPTION**

Trusty recommended adding an item to discuss a subcommittee.

**MOTION:** McManamay moved and Trusty seconded to add a subcommittee discussion as Business Item A. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**MOTION:** Litvay moved and McManamay seconded to approve the agenda as amended. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** McManamay moved and Litvay seconded to approve the August 16, 2016 minutes as presented. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**MOTION:** McManamay moved and Trusty seconded to add Wendell Pryor, Director of Chaffee County Economic Development Corporation, to the agenda as Business Item B. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT – None.**

**BUSINESS ITEMS**

**A. Subcommittee Discussion.**

Ashley Ahlene introduced herself and stated she is part of the Branding, Marketing and Wayfinding Committee which was under the Beautification Advisory Board. The group just received a BluePrint2.0 initiative from the State of Colorado to further marketing and branding efforts. She stated their committee wanted to discuss serving as a subcommittee under the Economic Vitality Advisory Board but also to look at having Liz Cahill of the State Office of Economic Development and International Trade address this Board next month. She met with them for an all day workshop and will be working with her for 9 months for one-on-one mentoring. Trusty advised he suggested the subcommittee. Ahlene stated that during a SWOT analysis conducted at the workshop it was determined one of the weak points was there weren't strong business profiles in BV nor is the Town being marketed as a place where businesses can thrive but both groups could work together on these. A comment was made that BV doesn't seem to be business friendly and Ahlene responded that we want to be and hopefully efforts would further the desired types of businesses as well as more year-round businesses. The Board generally agreed this all makes sense.

**MOTION:** Litvay moved and McManamay seconded to add the Marketing, Branding and Wayfinding committee as a subcommittee of the Economic Vitality Advisory Board. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**B. Presentation by Wendell Pryor of the Economic Development Corporation.**

Pryor thanked the Town for being a contributing member of the EDC. He extended an invitation to attend the EDC annual member mixer which will be held next week on September 28 at Mt. Princeton between 3:30 and 5:30 PM. This events promotes more business-to-business contact.

Pryor stated that he has been the EDC Director for a little over 6 years. It was incorporation at a 501(c)6 business association over 7 years ago. What they do is help prepare, create and influence development of the economic development ecosystem by making sure there is a good infrastructure and an advocate for business, but also provide concierge level service to businesses looking to relocate or expand in Chaffee County. The EDC helps the entire County with jobs, growth and change. The bottom line is that over the last 6 years the EDC has been directly and indirectly responsible for the creation of over 200 jobs and the leveraging of \$2,000,000 in investment of access to capital by businesses. Pryor provided several examples of some of the employers, programs and projects the EDC has helped with and then stated the EDC exists mainly to support businesses and meet the needs of the community. Volpe asked Pryor how he sees the relationship between the EVAB and EDC. Pryor said a symbiotic partnership. The EDC will listen and respond to specific requests. He felt the Economic Vitality Board could clarify BV's needs and let the EDC know how it can help in meeting them.

**C. Selection and appointment of Recorder/Secretary.**

Katsimpalis announced that Town Clerk Sciacca is not able to make meetings due to school starting and that the majority of Town Boards has their secretary from within the membership. She noted that Sciacca volunteered to continue doing minutes from a recording if no one wanted to volunteer. There were not volunteers.

**D. Introduction / Interview of Board Applicant Dan Robertson.**

Robertson introduced himself to the group. Ahlene asked him to be involved in Branding, Market and Wayfinding project where he sat next to and spoke with Trusty. The opening on this Board came up. Has been in BV for 2 years and was a raft guide from 1999-2002. He previously lived in Chicago, New York and DC. Made a conscious choice to move back to BV for the lifestyle. Robertson started a consulting practice and invested in rafting company in BV. He loves BV and is huge believer in the community and when he looks at where it was 15 years ago and where it can be in 15 years he wants to be a part of it. He is for smart growth and wants to help mold it. He also stated he has good handwriting and volunteered to serve as Recorder/Secretary.

**MOTION:** McManamay moved and Litvay seconded to add Dan Robertson to Economic Vitality Advisory Board and make him recorder/secretary. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Katsimpalis noted that Robertson would be officially appointed by the Board of Trustees at their next meeting

**E. Tennessee Pass Train Presentation by Christof Stork.**

Christof Stork, is European and stated he has seen how these work and how they can change mountain communities. He reviewed the slides that were included in the packet and stated this is unique as it does not exists in Colorado and the train tracks are already in existence. Stork requested feedback to improve the proposal and noted this a 5year process with things just

getting started. Union Pacific will give up the tracks within 5 to 20 years. Now is the time to discuss so they are ready when UP does give up the tracks. He met with the State Transit Board about one year ago and was informed they could not do anything until the communities support this. He foresees it being run by other mountain transit agencies. The main competitor is the Rails to Trails bike path. The proposed trains are diesel light rail and perform similar to buses. EDC Director Pryor suggested this be taken to the Tourism and Outdoor Section Partnership because they received a grant for a transit study and he stated there were conversations with the Town Administrator already for a transit stop in BV. This connects to a bigger vision. He sees two trains to start with a morning commuter train between Salida and Buena Vista and Eagle and Minturn, 2 round trip runs during the day over Tennessee Pass and two more commuter trains during the evening between Salida and Buena Vista and Eagle and Minturn. Would be faster than vehicle and allow for transport of bicycles with availability of espresso in the morning and wine in the evening. Fares maybe \$120-150 for RT over Tennessee pass with lower commuter fares and passes. He predicts operating revenue of \$30,00,000/year with operational costs of \$15,000,000 for only two trains. Startup costs are projected at \$20,000,000-80,000,000 and there are 4 potential ways to accomplish this:

1. Public-Private Partnerships
2. Bonds Repaid with Train Revenue
3. State and Federal Monies
4. Transit Taxes.

Following the presentation there was a brief question and answer period and then Stork again requested comments. Trusty stated his only concern is the Rails to Trails plan that was presented to various groups in the County and he felt it would make more sense if the communities were all behind one project. Stork was thanked for his presentation.

#### **F. Economic Development Master Plan RFP Review.**

Katsimpalis noted the DRAFT RFP in the packet and requested feedback stating it was an amalgamation of several she found online. Jordan stated that he felt the Town should be required to look for local vendors. Pryor felt this was a good RFP and his challenge to this group is to make sure they get value out of this in the form of a 3-5 year realistic road map or blueprint. After additional discussion Katsimpalis stated that Town Administrator Reitter still needed to review this so there is more time for input. The group generally agreed to re-read the RFP and make suggestions to ensure there were clear and "implementable" deliverables.

Katsimpalis advised the Board would be involved in the interview process and could also review all the applications received if they desired. Litvay felt that the Board should tap into Pryor's expertise and knowledge and invited him to attend these meetings. Pryor stated he was happy to participate in discussions anytime he was needed. Trusty inquired about having EDC Board members sit in on these meetings as well and Pryor said that was possible and there is a multitude of expertise so all they have to do is ask.

#### **STAFF/COUNSEL REPORTS**

**A. Town Administrator – None.**

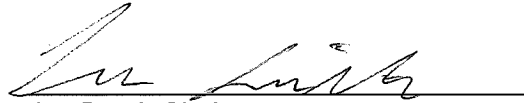
**B. Assistant to Town Administrator – None.**

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** The Board unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 AM.

The next meeting is Tuesday, October 18, 2016 at 7:00AM in the Aspen Room at the Community Center located at 715 East Main.

Respectfully submitted:



Jay Boyd, Chair